

**Park City School District
November 4, 2014
Work Session 9:00 AM**

Members present

Maurice Hickey, Nancy Garrison, Michael Boyle, Tania Knauer, and Charles Cunningham participating via telephone

Staff Present:

Ember Conley, Todd Hauber and Lorie Pearce

Meeting called to order at 9:05 AM

Board President Hickey called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. Member Boyle led the pledge of allegiance.

Discussion

Using Data to Drive Decisions

Andrew Frink, Tim McConnell, and Kathy Einhorn were before the Board to present the SAGE information. Caitlin O'Connor joined the meeting via Google Hang Outs. Caitlin mentioned that when looking at SAGE data, the Board needs to keep in mind that this is only one piece of the data and it is not trend data. Kathy wanted to make sure that everyone understands that we are educating the future work force and we need to keep that in mind as we move forward. Dr. McConnell explained that individual scores will be released as soon as the printing is complete, which should be later this week. On November 13, 2014 at the high school lecture hall, there will be training for parents to explain how to read these reports. Member Garrison stated that how we communicate the information from the data is very critical. Dr. McConnell mentioned that the information from these results gives the district an opportunity to see where we need to focus our attention. Board President Hickey asked him to make sure that all of the information is sent out to PTO/PTA's etc. so that they have the information. Many parents do not go to the district website, so we need to make sure that they have access to the information.

Caitlin presented information to the Board about ACT College and Career Readiness Goals. The purpose of this report is to set a SMART goal for future PCSD academic achievement using:

Past and Current PCSD student data

EXPLORE

PLAN

ACT

Empirically supported growth models and Challenge goals

The method used for this was ACT Research Articles, National and Utah State ACT Data and PCSD Student Data. The Power of SMART Goals is:

Using Goals to Improve Student Learning

Specific

Measurable

Action-oriented (attainable/achievable)

Realistic/relevant

Time-Bound

The greatest possibility for increasing the percentage of students who meet the ACT Benchmarks occurs among students whose predicted ACT scores are just below the Benchmarks.

One strategy to improve ACT scores is to encourage students to take more rigorous college-preparatory courses and to earn higher grades in these courses. Taking more challenging courses exposes students to

more of the content that they need to master before college or work.

Typically, but not always, advanced/honors courses are taken by students with above- average academic achievement. One study found that advanced/honors-track students had significantly higher eighth-grade test scores and expended greater effort than did other students. He also found that students' tenth-grade scores were strongly related to their eighth-grade scores and to effort, but only modestly related to curriculum track.

However, the benefit of taking more challenging courses and earning higher grades might not be the same for all students, but instead might depend on their prior achievement. Merely enrolling in and sitting through more challenging courses might not improve students' educational achievement.

Taking more standard or advanced courses in high school and earning higher grades is more beneficial to students who have high EXPLORE scores to begin with. Students with low EXPLORE scores are less likely to take upper-level courses than are students with high EXPLORE scores. An alternative to taking standard college-preparatory courses in high school is to take remedial courses. Although remedial instruction could benefit students with academic deficiencies, most of them would still not be on target in preparing for college.

Funding for District Student Travel for National and State Competitions

Todd Hauber has taken some time and looked at the travel requests that the Board has authorized for the last fiscal year. He went on to explain that of these requests, some items were not included in the costs, such as substitute costs. The actual costs for a substitute teacher per day is \$94.00. Jamie Sheetz and Todd are going through the budget to try and determine if an actual line item for travel can be assigned.

Questions that were raised; should the district be putting general fund dollars aside for travel? Do we need to look at the fund raising policy to determine how many fundraisers one group can participate in each year?

President Hickey made the observation that most, about half of the district costs was for substitute teachers. This should be included in the travel request.

Superintendent Conley has suggested that we develop a fundraising calendar, and a tightening of the fund raising policy.

Philosophical Framework to Guide Master Planning

Superintendent Conley posed several questions to the Board. Several areas within Master Planning need to be discussed before the committee can make any recommendations is:

What is the philosophy in Park City as far as sizes of schools, philosophy of schools, neighborhoods?

When you get beyond a school size of 700 for an elementary, you require more administrations, and it becomes a different feel.

As we grow, what do we want to be known for?

Middle schools beyond 800, become larger entities so do we look at expanding or building new?

President Hickey said that the Master Planning Committee has started these same discussions, but philosophy of the Board needs to come into the conversation. The committee is looking for parameters on how to proceed. What is acceptable, not acceptable, etc. What does or will Park City residents accept? President Hickey has suggested that Andrea Rorrer be asked to participate in a work session, and have her share her information on classroom sizes. Superintendent Conley suggested that the Master Planning Committee could come up with options of different variables, and then those can be presented to the community in a very precise way. The Master Planning Committee is concerned about the amount of buildable land within the district boundaries.

Member Garrison asked what the guidelines look like to give the Master Planning what they need.

Class Sizes

Superintendent Conley said that the emphasis should be on career and college readiness when looking at courses next year. Just because "We have always done it", does not mean that we have to continue doing things this way. By looking at courses and freeing up things that we have always done to support things that we want to do will help to address class sizes.

In looking at the secondary level, the numbers have been very interesting. Member Hickey said that in reviewing the information, generally speaking the accumulative workload of teachers is 23-1, and what he found is that some of the younger teachers are carrying the higher accumulative student loads. Member Boyle mentioned that Parent Release causes the loading of some classes, due to the fact that student are out of the building for Parent Release and they do not have the entire day to spread out their schedule of needed classes so they are locked into when they can take a class which caused over crowding.

Member Hickey made three observations: Parent Release plays a huge part in the scheduling, class sizes are period specific, not accumulative, and some of the numbers are driven by the teacher and the course. We are concentrating a lot of the core courses in periods 1st and 2nd, in an effort to accommodate Parent Release, which is driving up the numbers in these classes.

Superintendent Conley went on to review some of the class numbers at Jeremy Ranch Elementary School. President Hickey would like to know how many aides/para's are working at each school, and within a classroom. Superintendent Conley will send a report to the Board showing how many aides are at each school and their schedules.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:39 am

Member Boyle made a motion to adjourn to Regular Session at 4:00 pm on November 18, 2014. Member Knauer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Maurice Hickey, President

Michael Boyle, Vice President

Nancy Garrison, Member

Tania Knauer, Member

Charles Cunningham, Member

Todd Hauber, Business Administrator